

**Supplemental Environmental Assessment
for the
Proposed Construction of a Temporary Gas Station
at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi,
Harrison County, Mississippi
September 2004**

**Supplemental to the Primary Environmental Assessment:
*Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center,
Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco John's Restaurant at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi,
Harrison County, Mississippi*
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Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Temporary Gasoline Station at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

Proposed Action

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) proposes to construct and operate a temporary gasoline station with two 10,000-gallon aboveground storage tanks (ASTs).

Report Designation

This document is a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Primary Environmental Assessment entitled *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco John's Restaurant at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi*, prepared and finalized by the United States Air Force (USAF) in January 2003.

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Abstract

AAFES, the contracting agency for the proposed project, would construct a temporary gasoline station to be used by authorized patrons at Keesler Air Force Base (AFB) during the demolition and construction of the new AAFES facility. These patrons would include primarily active-duty and retired military personnel, their family members, and certain categories of reserve military personnel. The new facilities would be collocated and centrally located on the base.

The preferred site (Alternative 2) for construction of the proposed action would involve the construction of the temporary proposed facility in an area that is already dedicated to similar land uses. The proposed facility would be constructed on a site that is already developed and would not

involve the disturbance of new land. Based on the current design of the proposed facility, the ASTs would have two 10,000-gallon tanks with a total of eight hoses, and could service up to eight vehicles at one time. Construction of temporary facilities would provide gasoline in servicing customers while the permanent facility is demolished and constructed (proposed in the Primary Environmental Assessment completed in January 2003).

This SEA evaluates the preferred alternative (Alternative 2) and the no-action alternative. Under the no-action alternative, AAFES would not construct a temporary gasoline station for use by authorized patrons. Keesler AFB patrons would not have to purchase fuel off base during the demolition and construction of the new facility. Resources considered in the SEA include: topography, geology, water resources, noise, hazardous materials and wastes, infrastructure and utilities, biological resources, cultural resources, and socioeconomic resources.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAFES	Army and Air Force Exchange Service
AFB	Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AST	aboveground storage tank
BMP	best management practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CE	Civil Engineering
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CES	Civil Engineer Squadron
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
CY	calendar year
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DRMO	Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement; also Engineering Installation Squadron
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FR	Federal Regulation
FY	fiscal year
gpm	gallons per minute
ha	hectare
lpm	liters per minute
MCMP	Mississippi Coastal Management Program

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations (continued)

MDAH	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
MDEQ	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
mgd	million gallons per day
mld	million liters per day
MNHP	Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
MSL	mean sea level
MSW	municipal solid waste
MWR	Morale, Welfare, and Recreation
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NOA	Notice of Availability
NO _x	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
PEA	Primary Environmental Assessment
PM ₁₀	particulate matter (10 microns or less)
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SEA	Supplemental Environmental Assessment
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SO _x	sulfur oxides
SPCC	spill prevention, control, and countermeasure
STP	sewage treatment plant
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TRW	Training Wing
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USAF	United States Air Force
U.S.C.	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	underground storage tank

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations (continued)

WG	Wing
WWII	World War II
WWTP	wastewater treatment plant

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations (continued)

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1 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

The Primary Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco John's Restaurant at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi* was prepared and finalized by the United States Air Force (USAF) in January 2003. The PEA identified, described, and evaluated the potential impacts to the environment due to the proposed construction of the above-referenced commercial facility at Keesler Air Force Base (Keesler AFB; also referred to herein as "the base" or the "installation"). In addition, this document identified the required environmental permits relevant to the proposed action and identified any actions that could be taken to minimize environmental impacts.

Upon completion of the PEA, both the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and the USAF identified the need to construct a temporary facility to provide gasoline services to existing patrons on Keesler AFB during the demolition and construction of the new AAFES facility. Therefore, the USAF is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to address the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of this temporary gas station facility at Keesler AFB.

The SEA is prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (Title 40 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500-1508); and the guidelines for the Department of the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP; Air Force Instruction [AFI] 32-7061) as promulgated by 32 CFR 989.

1.2 Description of the Proposed Action

AAFES, the contracting agency for the project, proposes to construct a temporary gas station facility for use by authorized patrons at Keesler AFB.

1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The need is to provide a facility that would provide gasoline services for authorized AAFES patrons between the time period of the demolition of the old AAFES facility and the construction of the new AAFES facility. The construction of this temporary gas station facility would allow AAFES to continue providing convenient gasoline services to authorized AAFES patrons; customers would not be required to travel off base for these services since the temporary facility would be on the installation property. The facility would be located in accordance with all National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) laws and regulations. Construction of this temporary gas station facility would allow Keesler AFB to continue sharing revenues with AAFES during the construction and demolition of the new AAFES facility.

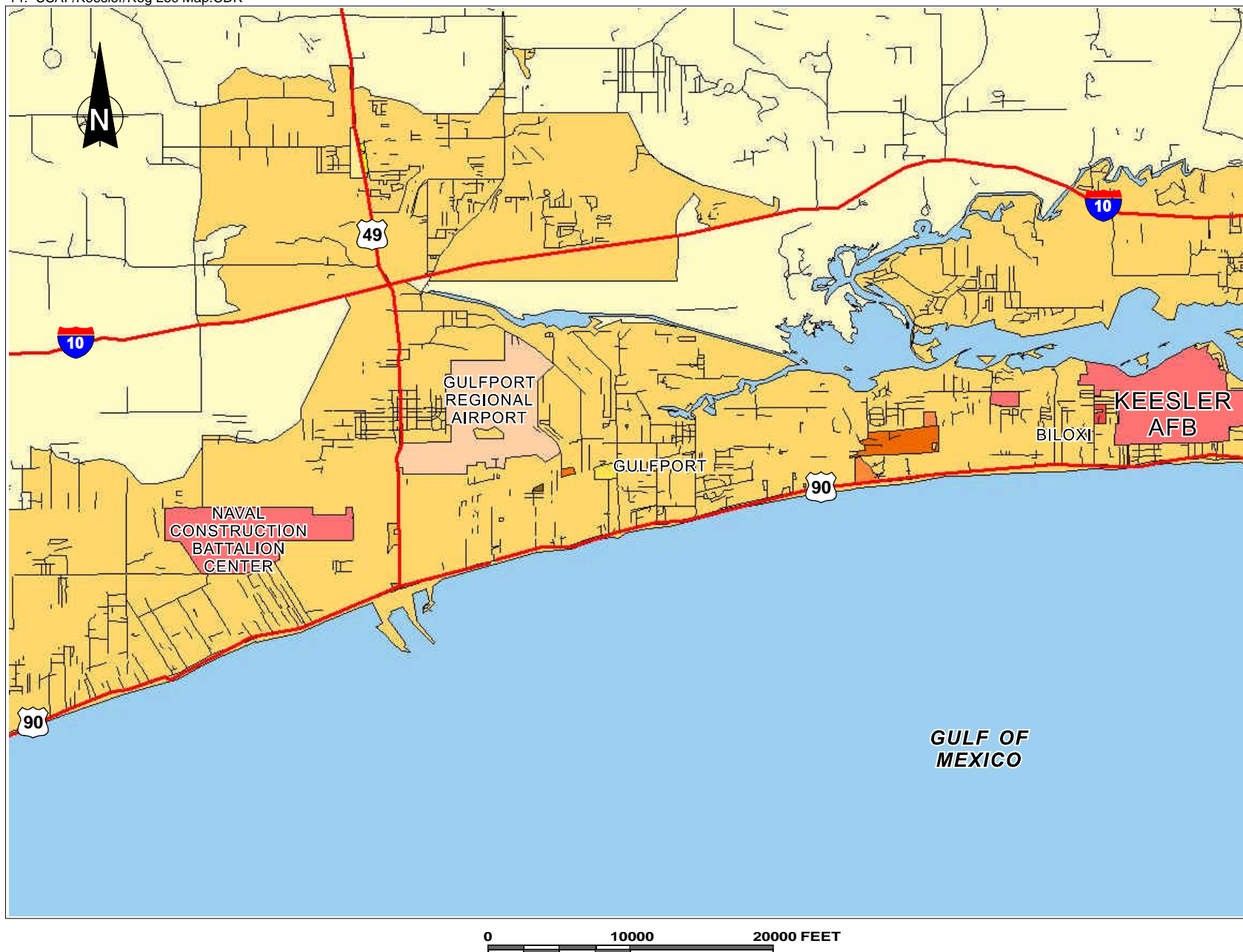
1.4 Location of the Proposed Action

Keesler AFB is located in Harrison County, Mississippi, within the boundaries of the City of Biloxi (Figure 1-1). The base is located on a barrier island bounded by the Back Bay of Biloxi to the north and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. U.S. Highway 90 parallels the southern boundary of the base and provides access to Interstate 10 via U.S. Highways 49 and 110. The base occupies approximately 1,678 acres (679 hectares [ha]) of land (Parsons 2001).

1.5 Decision to Be Made

The USAF must decide, based on this SEA, whether a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is applicable or whether the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. Under NEPA, federal agencies are required to consider the environmental consequences of proposed actions during the decision-making process. The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through well-informed federal decisions. The CEQ was established under NEPA to implement and oversee federal policy in this process, and in 1978, the CEQ issued regulations implementing the process (Title 40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508). The CEQ regulations require an Environmental Assessment (EA) to:

- Briefly provide evidence and analysis to determine whether the proposed action might have significant effects that would require preparation of an EIS. If the analysis



**Figure 1-1 REGIONAL LOCATION MAP -- KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI**

determines that the environmental effects would not be significant, a FONSI will be prepared; and

- Facilitate the preparation of an EIS, when required.

1.6 Agency Coordination and Public Participation

In accordance with the NEPA of 1969, Air Force Policy Directive 32-70, and AFI 32-7061, the draft SEA and FONSI were made available for agency and public review during a 30-day period prior to initiation of the proposed action. Scoping letters were prepared and distributed on February 6, 2004, to the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The draft SEA and FONSI (Appendix A) were distributed to the appropriate state government agencies through the Mississippi State Clearinghouse, and public comments were solicited in a Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the *SunHerald* dated August 23, 2004 (Appendix B).

1.7 Applicable Regulatory Requirements

A list of the environmental permits, compliance requirements and approvals necessary for the proposed action will be discussed in Section 5 of the SEA. Contractor specifications will also be provided.

1.8 Organization of the Document

The first four sections of the SEA will establish the existing conditions at Keesler AFB. Section 1 will establish the connection to the PEA by providing a general overview of the purposes for preparing the SEA. Section 1 also will describe the proposed action, and explain the purpose and need for the proposed action. Section 2 will describe the methods used to identify the alternatives and will describe the alternative that best meets the siting criteria. Section 3 will identify the environmental setting at Keesler AFB by referring to the PEA description of the physical, biological, socioeconomic, cultural, and archaeological resources on the base. The characteristics described will include, but not be limited to, groundwater, wetlands and other surface waters, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, utility infrastructure, air quality, land use, and transportation. Section 4 will discuss the environmental consequences of the no-action and the proposed action on the preferred site alternative. The remaining sections of the SEA will include a description of the necessary

environmental permits and contractor requirements; a list of persons who prepared this document; the agency personnel who were consulted; and the references used to develop the SEA.

2

Description of the Alternatives

This section identifies the proposed siting alternatives and compares them to evaluation criteria to determine the most acceptable siting locations. Then the preferred alternative and the no-action alternative are described in detail.

2.1 History of the Formulation of Alternatives

Keesler AFB is densely developed and has few remaining vacant parcels large enough and with the appropriate infrastructure to support the location of a temporary gas station facility. Once compatible areas were identified, each site was analyzed in accordance with NFPA 30A, *Automotive and Marine Service Station Code*. These regulations provide fuel-dispensing stations and service stations with important safety guidelines. Proposed sites were identified according to the ability of the parcel to comply with safety guidelines identified above and the ability of the site to meet the purpose and need.

2.1.1 Descriptions of the Alternatives

Keesler AFB planners and AAFES staff identified the following three alternatives as potentially suitable for the development of the proposed action, as well as a fourth alternative, the no-action alternative.

Alternative 1

The proposed Alternative 1 site is approximately 4.3 acres (1.7 ha; Figures 2-1 and 2-4). The existing land use for this site is community services and open space. The site is undeveloped and primarily consists of maintained grass with a few scattered trees. Streets bordering the proposed site include Gen. Chappie James Avenue to the north, “L” Street to the south, Larcher Boulevard to the east, and “Q” Street to the west.



Figure 2-1: ALTERNATIVE SITE 1.
View from northeast corner of site looking southwest toward existing dormitory facilities.

Alternative 2

The proposed Alternative 2 site is approximately 5.1 acres (2.1 ha; Figures 2-2 and 2-4). The existing land use for this site is community commercial. The site is currently the home of the existing Keesler AFB shoppette and Class Six facility. While the parcel is developed, a large portion of the site remains undeveloped, with some vacant parking area and other vegetated areas. Vegetation on this site consists of maintained grass with a few trees. Streets bordering the proposed site include “G” Street to the north, Meadows Drive to the south, Second Street to the east, and Third Street to the west.



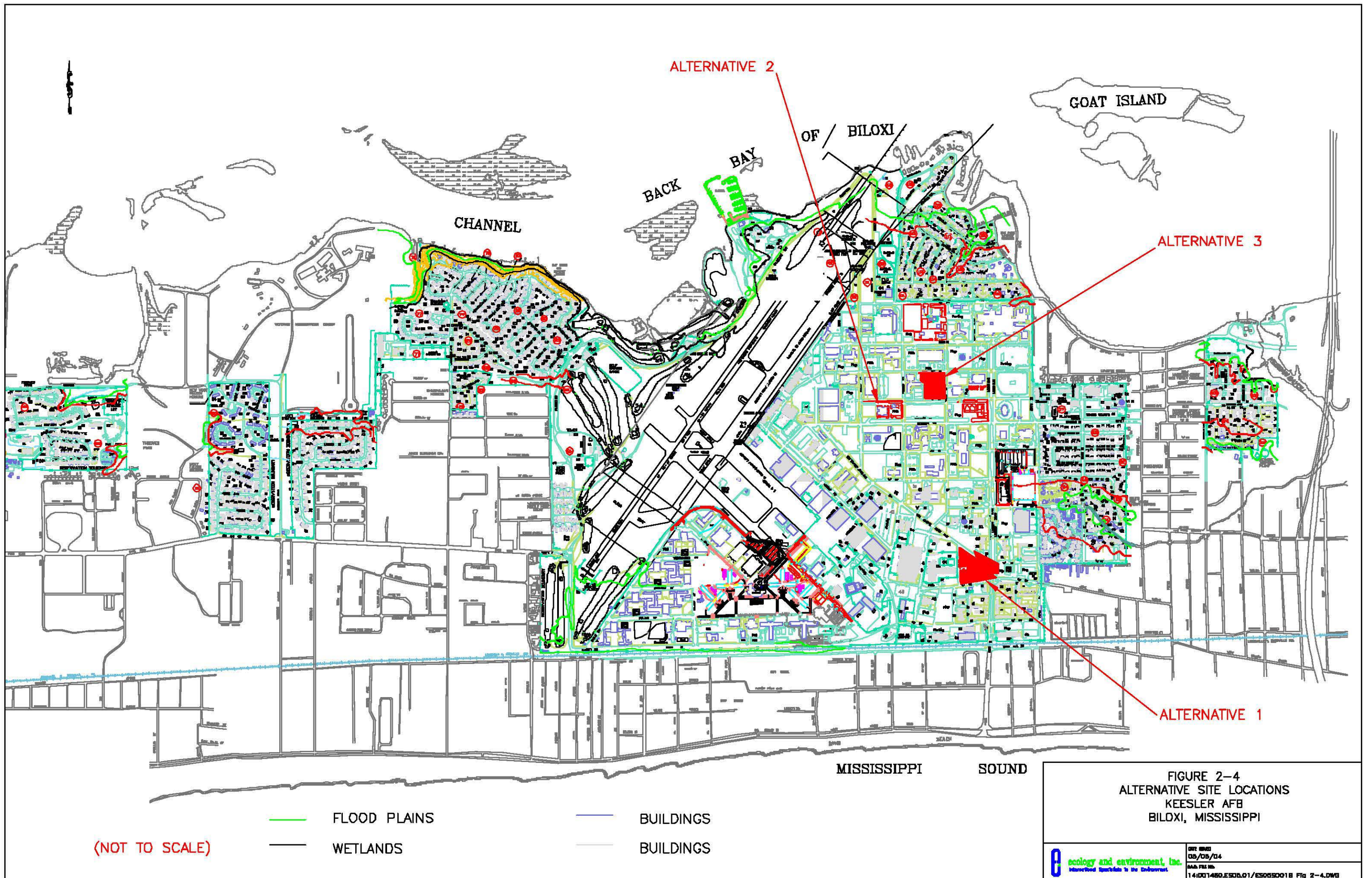
Figure 2-2: ALTERNATIVE SITE 2. View from East Street looking southwest toward the rear of existing shoppette and Class Six facility.



Figure 2-3: ALTERNATIVE SITE 3. View from southeast corner looking northwest toward the administrative facility.

Alternative 3

The proposed Alternative 3 site is approximately 3.2 acres (1.3 ha; Figures 2-3 and 2-4). The existing land use for the site is administrative. The site is currently undeveloped. Vegetation on this site consists of scattered pine trees. Streets bordering the proposed site include “H” Street to the north, “G” Street to the south, Third Street to the east, and Second Street to the west.



Alternative 4: No Action

No new construction would be required under Alternative 4, the no-action alternative and would not result in the construction of the temporary gas station facility to provide AAFES patrons on-base gas services during the demolition and construction of the new AAFES facility. Under this alternative, AAFES patrons would be required to go off base to get gasoline services.

2.1.2 Site-Selection Criteria

The following general site-selection criteria were used to screen each potential site and identify reasonable alternatives (Table 2-1). These criteria were developed based upon the purpose and need, and other land use and environmental factors important in siting this facility.

- Convenience to AAFES customers;
- Compliance with NFPA 30 siting requirements;
- Appropriate existing infrastructure;
- Safe vehicular access and minimal impacts on existing traffic flow in the area;
- Adequate space to accommodate the intended uses;
- Compatibility with land-use designations and surrounding visual character;
- Compatibility with current and future planned projects; and
- Minimization of adverse impacts to natural resources.

Table 2-1								
Evaluation of Alternatives based on Siting Criteria Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi								
Alternative (#)	Purpose and Need Criteria					Land Use and Environmental Criteria		
	Convenience	NFPA 30	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety	Space	Land Use	Other Projects	Natural Resources
1	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	✓			✓	✓			

Notes:

✓ denotes that the alternative meets the site requirement.

2.1.3 Summary of Evaluation Criteria Table

After the evaluation of each siting alternative against the site-selection criteria, Alternatives 1 and 3 do not meet all the proposed site evaluation criteria and will not be considered in subsequent sections of this analysis. Only Alternative 2 meets all the purpose and need criteria, as well as all the

proposed environmental and land-use criteria. Therefore, only Alternative 2 and the no-action alternative will be considered further in the SEA. Following is a brief description of the results of the comparison of each alternative to the site-selection criteria.

Alternative 1 meets the majority of the purpose and need criteria, and only one of the land-use and environmental criteria for the siting of the proposed facility. The existing land use at this site is community services and open space and would not be compatible with the construction of a temporary gas station facility. Because of the community services land-use designation and the proximity to existing dormitory facilities, the base has reserved this parcel of property for the future construction of additional permanent dormitory facilities. Construction of permanent dormitory facilities would assist in reducing the existing deficit in permanent dormitory facilities on Keesler AFB; therefore, Alternative 1 will not be evaluated further in the SEA.

Alternative 2 is the only alternative that meets all the purpose and need criteria and all the land use and environmental criteria for the siting of the proposed facility. This alternative is discussed in detail in subsequent sections.

Alternative 3 meets three of the purpose and need criteria, and land use and environmental criteria. The existing land use at this site is medical and would not be compatible with the construction of this type of facility. The site is surrounded by other medical and community-type facilities, including the child development center and youth center. The site would be located in an area away from the major traffic flow of the base and, therefore, would not be as accessible or visible to base personnel. Because of the limited access to the site, increased traffic congestion would result on this portion of the base and could result in safety concerns. Furthermore, the presence of tanker trucks in this portion of the base would also likely result in safety concerns. Future plans have this site reserved as the location of the second Fisher House (fiscal year 2003 [FY03]) and new medical warehouse (FY02); therefore, Alternative 3 will not be evaluated further in the SEA.

2.2 Actions to be Evaluated Further in the SEA

2.2.1 Description of the Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative (Alternative 2) is the construction of the proposed action (as described in Section 1.2) at the preferred alternative site location. Alternative 2 was identified as the preferred alternative after an evaluation of the potential siting alternatives against the purpose and need and land use and environmental evaluation criteria discussed in Section 2.1.2 (see Table 2-1).

2.2.2 Description of the “No-Action” Alternative

The CEQ regulations implementing NEPA require that a “no-action” alternative be evaluated (Alternative 4). Under this alternative, AAFES would not construct the new temporary gas station facility at Keesler AFB. No gasoline services would be provided at Keesler AFB for approximately one year during the demolition and construction of the new AAFES facility, severely reducing AAFES revenues generated on Keesler AFB. No direct environmental effects would result from implementation of the no-action alternative, but this alternative would not meet the identified purpose and need.

2.3 Comparison of Environmental Effects of the Preferred Alternative and the No-Action Alternative

Based on the site selection criteria, only one reasonable site alternative (Alternative 2) was identified. Table 2-2 illustrates the environmental effects associated with this alternative and with the no-action alternative.

Table 2-2		
Environmental Effects of the Preferred Alternative and the No-Action Alternative Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi		
Resource	Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)	No Action (Alternative 4)
Geology	No impact	No impact
Air Quality	Minor negative impact during construction	No impact
Water Resources	No impact	No impact
Noise	Minor short-term negative impact associated with construction equipment	No impact
Hazardous Materials and Wastes	No impact	No impact
Infrastructure and Utilities	Minor short-term negative impact for temporary tanks and associated piping, etc.; slight positive impact by reducing overall vehicular trips on and off base during construction	No impact
Vegetation	Minor negative impact due to land disturbance during construction.	No impact
Wildlife	No impact	No impact
Threatened and Endangered/Rare Species	No impact	No impact
Cultural Resources	No impact	No impact
Land Use	No impact	No impact

Table 2-2 Environmental Effects of the Preferred Alternative and the No-Action Alternative Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi		
Resource	Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)	No Action (Alternative 4)
Visual Quality	Minor negative short-term impact due to aesthetics of temporary structures	No impact
Economy/ Employment	Slight positive impact by maintaining revenues when constructing permanent facility.	No impact
Environmental Justice	No impact	No impact
Housing	No impact	No impact
Recreation	Short-term slight positive impact by maintaining revenues for the Keesler AFB Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program when constructing permanent facility.	No impact
Occupational Safety and Health Administration	No impact	No impact

This section was extracted from the PEA dated January 2003. Since existing conditions have not changed since the PEA was completed, only minor revisions have been made. This section describes the physical, biological, cultural, and socioeconomic resources at Keesler AFB that potentially could be affected by implementing the proposed action.

3.1 Installation Location, History, and Current Mission

3.1.1 Location

Keesler AFB is located in Harrison County, Mississippi, within the boundaries of the City of Biloxi (Figure 1-1). The base is located on a barrier island bordered by the Back Bay of Biloxi to the north and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. U.S. Highway 90 parallels the southern boundary of the base and provides access to Interstate 10 via U.S. Highways 49 and 110. The base occupies approximately 1,678 acres (679 ha) of land (Parsons 2001).

3.1.2 History

Keesler AFB was activated in June 1941 as a training center for aircraft mechanics. Prior to occupation by the USAF, a small public airfield occupied the area. After World War II (WWII), Keesler AFB was designated as a permanent military base. Electronics, communications, personnel, and pilot training programs were later added to the existing training programs. In 1947, the radar training school was transferred to Keesler AFB from Boca Raton, Florida. Communications and control courses were transferred to the base from Scott AFB, Illinois, in 1958. Personnel and administrative career training were transferred from Amarillo AFB, Texas, to Keesler AFB in 1968. In 1967, the USAF Pilot Training School was activated at the base. The training program used T-28 aircraft and operated from 1967 until 1973.

3.1.3 Current Mission

The current mission of Keesler AFB focuses on four main areas: technical training and flying operations, medical care, logistics, and support. The 81st Training Wing (TRW) consists of the headquarters and related staff, as well as four training groups: the 81st Training Group; 81st Medical Group; the 81st Logistics Group; and the 81st Support Group. The 81st Training Group consists of eight technical and training squadrons and is responsible for technical and flying training at Keesler AFB. The 81st Medical Group, consisting of six squadrons, operates a large multi-specialty hospital and clinics. The 81st Logistics Group, consisting of five squadrons, provides support to the 81st TRW in terms of electronic training systems, contracting, supply, and transportation. The 81st Support Group consists of five squadrons that support the people who use the base facilities, by providing engineering, communication, security, and essential services. In addition to the 81st TRW units, Keesler AFB is home to a variety of other organizations. Major tenant units are the Second Air Force, the 403 Wing (WG), and the 738th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS).

3.2 Description of the Affected Environment

The following subsections describe the environmental conditions of Keesler AFB. The proposed temporary gas station would be sited within an existing developed area on the base. The proposed site contains no natural resources except for some large live oak trees and landscaping vegetation.

3.2.1 Earth Resources

Topography

Keesler AFB is located within the Coastal Meadows (Flatwoods) topographical division of the Gulf Coast Region. The Coastal Meadows are generally flat to slightly elevated. The base is located on a narrow peninsula bounded by the Back Bay of Biloxi to the north and the Mississippi Sound, part of the Gulf of Mexico, to the south. Elevations on the base range from sea level in the marshes along the Back Bay of Biloxi shoreline to 32.5 feet (9.9 meters) above mean sea level (MSL) near the southwest portion of the base. Local relief is primarily the result of past depositional and more recent erosional processes. Relief is generally low for much of the base and is most notable near the Naval Reserve area, where land surface gently grades toward the Back Bay of Biloxi.

Soils

Soils identified within the area of the Biloxi Peninsula occupied by Keesler AFB include Eustis, Eustis-Poarch, Handsboro, Harleston, Lakeland, Ponzer-Smithton, Plummer, and Sulfaquepts.

Overall, the Eustis and Harleston are the dominant soils with the exception of base coastal marsh areas where Handsboro and Eustis-Poarch are the dominant soil types. The other four soil types have a limited areal extent. Additional soil information may be obtained from the *Harrison County Soil Survey, Mississippi* (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1975).

Table 3-1					
Soil Type Descriptions, Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi					
Soil Name	Percent Slope	Erosion Potential	Texture/ Description	Typical Vegetative Cover Supported (Overstory/Understory)	Drainage Description
Eustis Loamy Sand	0 to 5	Slight	Sandy	Pine, hardwood/ lawn grasses, ornamental shrubs	Little to no runoff; well drained
Eustis and Poarch soils	8 to 17	Moderate	Sandy	Pine, hardwood/ galberry, wax myrtle, and titia	Well drained surface; medium internal drainage
Handsboro Association	0 to 2	Slight	Muck; consists of decomposed organic soil on broad, wet, grassy flats	Marsh grass	Very poorly drained; severe limitations for development
Harleston Fine, Sandy Loam	0 to 2	Slight	Sandy	Pine/lawn grasses, ornamental shrubs	Slow runoff; moderate internal drainage
Harleston Fine, Sandy Loam	2 to 5	Moderate	Sandy	Pine, hardwood/ lawn grasses, ornamental shrubs	Slow to medium runoff; moderately to well drained
Lakeland Fine Sand	0 to 5	Slight	Sandy	Pine, hardwood/ pasture plants, grasses, shrubs	Little or no surface runoff; well drained
Latonia Loamy Sand	0 to 5	Slight	Sandy	Pine/pasture plants, lawn grasses, ornamental shrubs	Well drained on low ridges; surface drainage is slow
Plummer Loamy Sand	0 to 2	Slight	Sandy; sandy surface layer is thick, loamy, and wet	Pine/pasture plants, lawn grasses	Slow to very slow surface drainage; internally well drained
Ponzer and Smithton soils	0 to 2	Slight	Sandy loam	Hardwood, scattered slash and loblolly pines; sweetbay, magnolia/ red maple, star bush, titia	Surface and internal drainage are poor; soils are subject to flooding and are covered with water for long periods
Sulfaquepts	0 (along marshes and beaches)	Slight	Variable, ranging from sand to silty clay and clay	Capable of growing only a few plants, suited for lawns	Well drained, both surface and internally

Table 3-1

Soil Type Descriptions, Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi

Source: Parsons 2001.

Key:

Percent Slope = Steepness of an incline, or grade; the ratio between the vertical rise (or fall) and the horizontal distance in which the rise (or fall) occurs.

0% = Flat to gently sloping.

20% = Moderately steep.

40% = Very steep.

Erosion Potential = Risk of erosion. Length and steepness of slope, texture, and permeability are among soil characteristics considered.

Slight = Erosion not a problem.

Moderate = Management is needed to prevent erosion in cleared areas.

Severe = Extensive management is needed to control erosion.

3.2.2 Air Quality

Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that limit the concentration levels of criteria pollutants: ozone (O₃; smog), lead (Pb), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur oxides (SO_x, measured as sulfur dioxide [SO₂]), and particulate matter (of 10 microns or less; PM₁₀; soot). O₃ does not occur directly from any source, but results from a series of reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in sunlight. All areas are designated by the EPA with respect to each of these six criteria pollutants as “in attainment” (in compliance with the standards) or “non-attainment” (not in compliance with the standards), or “unclassifiable” (insufficient data to classify). Currently, Keesler AFB is located in Harrison County, which is designated with respect to each of these six criteria pollutants as in attainment (in compliance with the standards). Keesler AFB falls under the conditions of a Title V Air Operating Permit and all operations shall follow Mississippi Air Regulations APC – S-1 through 6 (James 2004).

3.2.3 Water Resources

Groundwater

Groundwater serves as the principal source of drinking water at Keesler AFB and for the City of Biloxi. Within the Gulfport-Biloxi-Ocean Springs coastal area, municipalities, industries, and Keesler AFB are the heaviest users of groundwater, which is obtained primarily from deep wells in the Miocene aquifer system. In the Biloxi area, large sandy aquifers located at depths of 600 feet (183 meters), 800 feet (244 meters), and 1,200 feet (366 meters) are the most extensively used (Parsons 2001).

Surface Water and Drainage

The surface water hydrology at Keesler AFB consists of several units. The stormwater sewer system dominates the surface water hydrology in the interior of the base. Two small manmade lakes exist on the golf course. The Back Bay of Biloxi and its coastal marshes, which are considered to be environmentally sensitive areas, provide the northern boundary for the base. On June 4, 1999, the MDEQ issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the base (No. MSR001362) to operate its stormwater collection, treatment, and disposal system (Parsons 2001).

The Keesler AFB stormwater system consists of open ditches, swales, culverts, and reinforced concrete piping. The majority of the stormwater drainage from the base flows north to the Back Bay of Biloxi. A system of oil-water separators is used to treat stormwater prior to discharge to the Back Bay of Biloxi. Drainage from a portion of the base flows south through the City of Biloxi's storm drainage system to the Mississippi Sound. Surface drainage on Keesler AFB is divided into 29 drainage areas. Of the 29 surface drainage areas, six are associated with industrial-type activities and the remaining drainage areas are associated with small residential and commercial development (Parsons 2001). Most of the system adequately supports the rainfall received at the base. However, during heavy periods of rainfall some of the drainage systems become overloaded, contributing to flooding in the vicinity of the site.

Wetlands

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District conducted a wetlands survey on Keesler AFB in 1991. Based on this delineation, the base contains 22 acres (8.9 ha) of jurisdictional wetlands located along the Back Bay of Biloxi. Coastal wetlands and salt marsh exist in the northwest portion of the base along the shore of the Back Bay (Figure 2-1). These marshes are dominated by black needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*) and smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). The base is currently updating the wetland delineation for Keesler AFB (Kinman 2002a). No wetlands are located on, or in the vicinity of, the preferred site of the proposed action.

Floodplains

Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, requires federal agencies to evaluate the effect of their actions on floodplains. Flooding is a concern near Keesler AFB, and parts of the installation fall within the 100-year floodplain (Figure 2-1). Major portions of the South Pine Haven, Oak Park, and Harrison Court housing areas lie within the 500-year floodplain (Figure 2-1). The proposed site for the new facility is not located within the 100-year or 500-year floodplain.

The base's proximity to the Gulf Coast increases the potential occurrence of tropical storms and hurricanes. Tropical storms and hurricanes not only produce torrential rainfall, but also tidal

surges that cause flooding. The USACE has predicted storm-induced flood tides of 12.5 feet (3.8 meters) above MSL every 100 years and 6 feet (1.8 meters) above MSL every 10 years for the Keesler AFB area (Parsons 2001).

3.2.4 Noise

Noise at Keesler AFB is characteristic of the noise associated with flight operations at most USAF installations and civilian airports. During periods of no aircraft activity at Keesler AFB, noise associated with base activities results primarily from aircraft maintenance and shop operations, ground traffic movement, occasional construction, and similar sources.

3.2.5 Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Keesler AFB is registered as a municipal large-quantity generator of hazardous wastes. In calendar year 2001 (CY01), Keesler AFB disposed of approximately 6,515 pounds (2,464 kilograms [kg]) of hazardous waste (Daniel 2002). Keesler AFB has a Part B Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for storage and handling of wastes (Parsons 2001).

Hazardous wastes generated at Keesler AFB include spent solvents, thinners, strippers, paint waste, laboratory chemicals, and unused materials considered as waste or products containing hazardous materials that have exceeded their shelf life. Hazardous wastes such as used tires, oil, and other automobile byproducts are produced at the existing gas station and car-care facility. In CY01, the Keesler AFB AAFES facility produced approximately 600 pounds (227 kg) of hazardous waste (Shelton 2002). Other hazardous wastes generated at Keesler AFB include turbine oil, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, batteries, and florescent lights. All hazardous wastes generated on base are transported to an off-base facility for recycling (Parsons 2001). There are two 90-day storage sites on base (Buildings 4304, 0468) and approximately 28 satellite accumulation points on base (James 2002). Hazardous wastes are transported to the one-year permitted facility at Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) facility (Building 4420; James 2002).

3.2.6 Infrastructure and Utilities

Potable Water

Keesler AFB obtains its drinking water from seven wells located on Keesler AFB (Atkins 2002). These wells extend through 600 feet (182.9 meters) of sand into unconfined aquifers located in the Miocene system, a geological formation that runs along most of the Mississippi coast. Each well can pump 500 to 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm; 1,893 to 3,785 liters per minute [lpm]) and is equipped with a chlorination treatment system (Williams 2002). Keesler AFB is in the process of

permitting and drilling two new wells that can pump up to 1,500 gpm (5,678 lpm; Atkins 2002). Keesler AFB has the capacity to store 2.4 million gallons (9 million liters) of water in six 400,000-gallon (1.5 million-liter) water towers. During the summer months, total water usage is approximately 3 million gallons per day (mgd; 11.4 million liters per day [mld]) and peak usage is estimated at 4 to 5 mgd (15.1 to 18.9 mld). Average flow is estimated at 2 mgd (7.6 mld; Atkins 2002).

Wastewater

The Keesler AFB wastewater collection system is composed of more than 400,000 linear feet (121,920 meters) of sewer mains (Atkins 2002). The system can accommodate a wastewater flow of approximately 3.24 mgd (12.3 mld; Atkins 2002). All wastewater generated from Keesler AFB is processed at one of two facilities, either the West Biloxi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) or the Keegan's Bayou WWTP. Currently, approximately 95 percent of all wastewater is treated at the West Biloxi WWTP, while the remaining 5 percent is treated by Keegan's Bayou WWTP (Atkins 2002).

The West Biloxi Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) provides secondary treatment of waste and is permitted to process 11.7 mgd (44.3 mld; Pahlavan 2002). While the plant has a peak design capacity of 25.0 mgd (94.6 mld), the average throughput is 8.0 mgd (30.3 mld; Pahlavan 2002). Effluent from the West Biloxi STP is discharged to the Back Bay of Biloxi. According to the plant manager, the effluent does not exceed the state quality requirements for its discharge, and the plant has recently received environmental awards for excellence (USAF 2000).

Electrical Systems

Electricity is supplied by Mississippi Power via the Gulfport Power Plant. During CY01, Keesler AFB used 162,297,685 kilowatt-hours of electricity (Daniel 2002a). Natural gas is supplied to the base via a high pressure main. There are approximately 370,000 linear feet of gas mains in the base distribution system (Atkins 2002). During CY98, Keesler AFB used 504,272 thousand cubic feet of natural gas (Atkins 2002).

Solid Waste Management

Municipal solid waste (MSW) at Keesler AFB is managed in accordance to the guidelines specified in AFI 32-7042, *Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance*. In general, AFI 32-7042 establishes the requirement for installations to have a solid waste management program that incorporates the following: a solid waste management plan; procedures for handling, storage, collection, and disposal of solid waste; record-keeping and reporting; and pollution prevention (USAF 1997a).

In CY01, the base disposed of 7,081 tons of MSW (Daniel 2002). Construction and demolition (C&D) waste from Keesler AFB is transported to the C.N. Williams Landfill, located in

north Harrison County (Pahlavan 2002). This C&D landfill is registered as a Class 1 rubbish site with a useful life of approximately 20 years (Pahlavan 2002). A service contractor collects and disposes MSW from Keesler AFB in the Pecan Grove Municipal Landfill located in Pass Christian, Mississippi (Pahlavan 2002). The Pecan Grove Landfill recently acquired an additional 100 acres (40.5 ha), increasing the useful life of this facility by a minimum of 15 years (Pahlavan 2002).

Transportation

The most recent traffic count or study at Keesler AFB was completed in 1986. Since that study, several missions such as weather training and the 2nd Air Force have been located at the base. Traffic problems occur in the western part of the base where an outdated street grid built in WWII runs in the directions of the runway and abandoned crosswind runway rather than in the north-south directions. The base design consists of numerous streets and smaller blocks that create traffic control concerns.

Larcher Boulevard, a primary road for the base, connects the main gate and the medical center. Ploesti Drive serves as the primary road carrying traffic from off base areas to the west. Meadows Road, leading from Gate 1, is a third primary road.

3.2.7 Biological Resources

Much of Keesler AFB has been developed by the construction of buildings and paving for runways or parking. This development has limited the vegetation and wildlife species present on the base both in numbers and in diversity.

Vegetation

Vegetation on the base consists primarily of maintained grassy areas and ornamental trees. The live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and slash pines (*Pinus Elliottii*) remaining on base are dominant components of the original climax upland pine-oak association. Many of the remaining live oaks at Keesler AFB have been designated as “heritage trees.” Heritage trees are old, large flora species that the City of Biloxi and the Base Commander have set aside for conservation (USAF 2000). Groundcover on base consists primarily of Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), centipede grass (*Eremochloa ophiluroides*), and St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*; USAF 2000).

Wildlife

Wildlife found on base are primarily limited to those adapted to disturbance and development. Mammals potentially occurring on base include raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris*), cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*), Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), and the house mouse (*Mus musculus*). Bird species that may occur on base include Northern mockingbird (*Mimus*

polyglottos), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), brown thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*; USAF 1994).

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Species

In August 2001, Keesler AFB conducted a threatened and endangered species survey. Upon the completion of this survey, a number of species were identified that may potentially occur within Harrison County, Mississippi, of which only the brown pelican was observed on the base near the Back Bay area. Table 3-2 below identifies the several federally listed species potentially occurring in Harrison County, Mississippi.

Table 3-2			
Federal and State-Listed Species Potentially Occurring in Harrison County, Mississippi			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	
		Federal	State
Louisiana black bear	<i>Ursus americanus luteolus</i>	Threatened	--
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened	Endangered
Brown pelican	<i>Pelicanus occidentalis</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Mississippi sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis pulla</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Snowy plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	--	Endangered
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	Endangered
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Bewick's wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	--	Endangered
Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Threatened	Endangered
Manatee	<i>Trichachus manatus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	--
Hawksbilled sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	--
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened	Endangered
Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	Endangered
Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Threatened	Endangered
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	Threatened	Endangered
Rainbow Snake	<i>Farancia erythrogramma</i>	--	Endangered
Southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	--	Endangered
Black pine snake	<i>Pituaphis melanoleucus lodingi</i>	--	Endangered

Sources: United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 1999; EPA 1999; and Mississippi Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) 1999.

3.2.8 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources at Keesler AFB are managed in accordance with environmental laws; Air Force Regulation 126-7, *Historic Preservation*; AFI 32-7061; the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; and Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) guidelines.

Historic Resources

In 1988, Keesler AFB personnel completed an assessment of the base's pre-WWII and WWII-era buildings, and the documentation was reviewed by MDAH. One pre-WWII building was identified as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This building, the Old Biloxi Hangar (Building #288), dates to 1938 and is associated with early aviation in Mississippi. No WWII-era buildings were considered eligible for the NRHP. No historic resources are located on, or in the vicinity of, the proposed action site.

Archaeological Resources

No prehistoric or historical archaeological sites have been recorded on Keesler AFB property (USAF 1996, Thorne 1993, Husley 1996). An archaeological assessment and management recommendation study for Keesler AFB was conducted in 1993. Based on a survey of portions of the base and a review of historic photographs and maps, the study concluded that intensive construction on the majority of the base property had disturbed any archaeological sites that may have existed. The only exception identified was the Federal Reserve Park in the northeast corner of the base, where, due to less ground disturbance, archaeological sites may remain.

In 1996, a report was produced through the Legacy Program. This report concurred with the archaeological assessment and management recommendation study regarding the low potential for archaeological resources at Keesler AFB. The Legacy study included on-site archaeological investigations that consisted of a pedestrian survey along the Back Bay shoreline and a few selected shovel tests within the Federal Reserve Park. No archaeological resources were found during these investigations (Husley 1996).

3.2.9 Land Use and Socioeconomics

Land Use

Keesler AFB is situated on a coastal plain in an area between the cities of Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi. Portions of the northern boundary of the base coincide with the Back Bay of Biloxi. Most of the land on Keesler AFB is improved and/or developed. Because of the highly

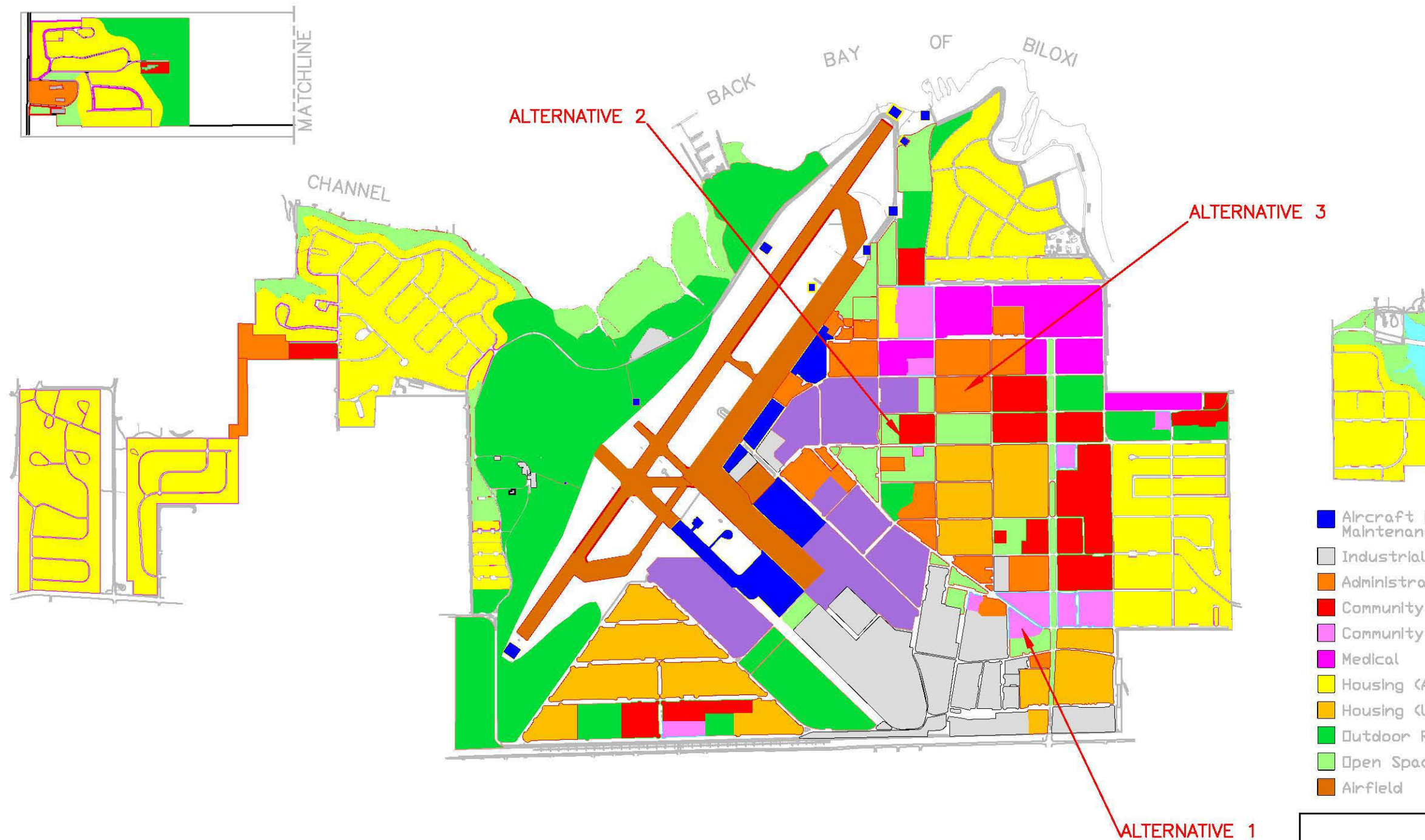
developed condition of the base, a strong emphasis is placed on consolidating buildings to maximize the efficient use of space on the base.

Runway and flight line facilities are located in the western portion of the base, while the administrative, support, and service facilities are located in the eastern portion (Figure 3-1). Keesler AFB completed a *Base General Plan* in July 1996 that details the installation's existing and future land use plans. The land use categories are: airfield (aprons, runways, and taxiways); aircraft operations and maintenance; industrial; technical training; administrative; community commercial; community service; medical; accompanied (family) housing (including off-base housing areas); unaccompanied housing; recreation; water; and open space (Figure 3-1).

Economy and Employment

The population associated directly with Keesler AFB in 2002 was comprised of 12,110 military personnel, including 5,752 on-base and 6,358 total off-base military personnel, and 3,843 civilian personnel (USAF 2000). The total payroll for Keesler AFB in 2000 was \$409,645,853 (USAF 2000). For 2000, Keesler AFB had an economic impact of \$1,435,039,746 on the local economy, creating 4,842 secondary and indirect jobs (USAF 2000).

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FIGURE 3-1
CURRENT LAND USE
KEESLER AFB
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

This section discusses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action on the preferred site (Alternative 2) and the no-action alternative (Alternative 4). The discussion includes potential short-term and/or long-term impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed action at the Alternative 2 site, as well as the no-action alternative (Alternative 4).

4.1 Change in Current Mission

No change to Keesler AFB's current mission would result from implementation of the proposed action. The base would continue to operate as a training facility, and as a home for the medical center and hurricane hunters. The proposed action would allow base personnel to continue to purchase gasoline during demolition and construction of the permanent facility—an important consideration given the highly developed condition of the base.

4.2 Description of the Affected Environment

4.2.1 Earth Resources

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Topography

Since the site is altered from past construction activities, the proposed action under Alternative 2 would have no effect upon topographical features at Keesler AFB.

Soils

Under the preferred alternative, soil profiles would not be impacted because the site has been already disturbed by previous development activities.

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would have no effect on the topography or soils of Keesler AFB.

4.2.2 Air Quality

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Implementation of the proposed action under Alternative 2 would generate exhaust/crankcase emissions from construction equipment. Underground storage tanks (USTs) are listed as emission points on the Keesler AFB Title V Permit; removal or addition of tanks will require a modification to the permit. Temporary aboveground storage tanks (AST) would be used while the old tanks are removed and the new tanks are installed at the newly constructed gas station discussed in the PEA. These tanks would be operated in accordance with requirements established by the existing Title V Permit and existing regulations, and therefore, would not result in additional impact.

Following construction, use of the proposed project facility would result in a reduction in the number of commuter trips to and from off-base gas stations. The corresponding reduction in auto emissions would constitute a positive air quality impact on the community.

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would have no effect on air quality at Keesler AFB.

4.2.3 Water Resources

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Surface Water

The preferred alternative would not affect surface water run off since the amount of impervious surfaces on Keesler AFB would not be increased. Additionally, the site would be located within an area of the base. However, because of the presence of the two 10,000 gallon above ground storage tanks in proximity to the existing stormwater infrastructure system, the potential does exist for a spill and their contents to possibly enter into the stormwater system.

To minimize this possibility, Keesler AFB would revise the existing Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) to include the temporary gas station facility (Morrison 2004). Revisions to the SPCC would include the requirement for spill kits to be present on site, as well as for individuals trained to use the spill kits (Morrison 2004).

Groundwater

No impact to groundwater would be expected as a result of implementing the proposed action at the Alternative 2 site. The proposed action would not affect any below-grade surfaces.

Wetlands

No impact to wetlands would occur by implementing the proposed action under Alternative 2. The preferred site does not contain any wetlands, nor is the site adjacent to any wetlands.

Floodplains

The proposed action would be sited outside the 100-year and 500-year floodplain. Therefore, the location of the facility at the preferred site would not affect the attenuation capacity of the 100-year or 500-year floodplain.

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would have no effect on water resources at Keesler AFB.

4.2.4 Noise

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Implementation of the proposed action under Alternative 2 would likely result in additional vehicular traffic to this portion of the base. However, because this site is located within an existing commercial portion of the base and is primarily characterized by vehicular noise, no noise impacts would be anticipated to be associated with the preferred alternative.

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would have no effect on noise levels at Keesler AFB.

4.2.5 Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Hazardous Materials and Wastes

The implementation of the proposed action at the Alternative 2 site would not increase the generation of hazardous wastes at Keesler AFB. As indicated in Section 4.2.3, the temporary gas station would be incorporated into the Keesler AFB SPCC. Additionally, the base Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) details best management practices (BMPs) implemented at the base for prevention of the release of hazardous materials into the adjacent estuary (Back Bay of Biloxi).

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would have no effect on the use or generation of hazardous materials.

4.2.6 Infrastructure and Utilities

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

The proposed action under Alternative 2 would not require any increase in the consumption of utilities on Keesler AFB. Therefore, there would be no impact to utilities on Keesler AFB.

Transportation Safety

Because the number of military personnel assigned to Keesler AFB would not be expected to increase as a result of the proposed action, there would be no associated increase in the number of trips to and from the base by military personnel and their dependants, or by civilian workers. Furthermore, although this facility would be located within a heavily traveled commercial portion of the base, the potential exists for disruptions to existing traffic flow patterns. To minimize this, planners and traffic safety personnel would review the existing layout and traffic flow pattern to ensure that an acceptable level of traffic flow would continue on Keesler AFB.

No Action Alternative

The no-action alternative would not change existing infrastructure.

4.2.7 Biological Resources

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Vegetation

Because the site is located within an existing developed portion of the base and is comprised totally of impervious surface, the site does not contain any vegetation. Therefore, implementation of the proposed action under Alternative 2 would have no effect on vegetation.

Wildlife

Habitat suitable for wildlife does not exist on the proposed site. There would be no effect on wildlife as a result of the proposed action under Alternative 2.

Threatened, Endangered and Rare Wildlife and Plants

Habitat suitable for threatened, endangered, or rare wildlife and plants does not exist on the proposed site. There would be no effect on listed or rare wildlife or plants as a result of the proposed action under Alternative 2.

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would have no effect on biological resources at Keesler AFB.

4.2.8 Cultural Resources

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Historical Resources

Implementation of the proposed action at the preferred alternative site location would not affect any historical resources since none are located on, or in the vicinity of, the preferred site.

Archaeological Resources

The preferred site of the proposed action is a paved parking lot that has been previously disturbed. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurs that the site does not contain any archaeological and architectural resources (Appendix C). If archaeological resources were unearthed during construction, the contractor would be required to stop excavation in the vicinity of the find and notify the base's Cultural Resources Manager.

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would not affect any historical or cultural resources.

4.2.9 Land Use and Socioeconomics

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Land Use

There would be no effect to land-use designations or existing land uses as a result of implementing the proposed action under Alternative 2.

Economy and Employment

The proposed action under Alternative 2 would have a slight positive effect on Keesler AFB's economy by maintaining gas revenues during the demolition and construction of the permanent facility for distribution to Keesler's AFB Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) program.

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would have no effect on land use, economy, environmental justice, or employment, or on the recreational or community support facilities at Keesler AFB.

4.2.10 Environmental Justice

Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)

Environmental Justice

The proposed action under Alternative 2 would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income communities, nor cause the displacement of any residents, eliminate jobs, or affect wages.

Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks

Potential environmental health and safety risks to children as a result of implementing the proposed action under Alternative 2 were evaluated in accordance with Executive Order 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*. Implementation of the proposed action would not result in a disproportionate risk to children from environmental health risks or safety risks. The proposed action under Alternative 2 would not include the introduction of hazardous materials to the site that would present a disproportionate risk to children.

No-Action Alternative (Alternative 4)

The no-action alternative would have no disproportionate effects on minority or low income communities, nor cause the displacement of any residents, eliminate jobs, or affect wages. In addition, the no-action alternative would not result in a disproportionate risk to children from environmental health risks or safety risks and would not introduce hazardous materials to the site; therefore, the no-action alternative would not present a disproportionate risk to children.

4.3 Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Effects

Unavoidable short-term negative effects of the proposed action would be the increased traffic associated with the location of a temporary gas station on Keesler AFB. However, because the gas station facility would be temporary, these effects would be short-term and generally limited to the immediate area.

While these effects are insignificant, there are projected beneficial impacts associated with the proposed action that would offset any negative effects. Such beneficial impacts include the continuation of gasoline services, thereby decreasing off-base travel for these services.

4.4 Relationship Between Short-Term Uses of the Environment and Long-Term Productivity

Short-term uses of the environment under the proposed action include maintenance and construction costs of the temporary gas station facility. The proposed action would enhance Keesler AFB's long-term productivity by continuing to provide less-expensive gasoline services to AAFES patrons while a permanent alternative is being constructed.

The proposed action would enhance Keesler AFB's long-term productivity by improving the morale and welfare of service members and their families. This temporary facility would provide reduced price gas to AAFES patrons. Better morale and welfare tends to lead to longer commitments with the USAF, thereby reducing the rate of service member turnover and training costs.

4.5 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Implementation of the proposed action would result in irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources by Keesler AFB and the Biloxi area. Committed resources would include building materials and supplies and their cost; labor; planning and engineering costs. Other committed resources would include public funds from the federal government for the erection of the temporary facility.

4.6 Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential

The proposed action would result in a short-term increase in energy requirements in the form of fossil fuels required for construction activities. These energy requirements would be in addition to existing Keesler AFB requirements.

4.7 Compatibility of the Proposed Action and Alternatives with the Objectives of Federal, Regional, State, and Local Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls

4.7.1 Applicable Statutes and Regulations

The following applicable statutes and regulations were considered during the development of this SEA:

- NEPA, 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §§ 4321-4370(d) (1994) and AFI 32-7061, *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process*.
- Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 13101-13109.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544 (1996).
- NHPA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 470(f) and (h-2) (1994).
- Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1377 (1994).
- Executive Order No. 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, 42 Federal Regulation (FR) 26961, 3 CFR, 1977, Comp., p. 121.
- CAA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7401-7671, as amended (1994).
- Executive Order No. 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice*, 59 FR 7629 (1994)
- Executive Order No. 13045, *Protection Of Children From Environmental Health Risks And Safety Risks*, 62 FR 19885 (1997).
- Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), 29 U.S.C. § 651 et seq.
- Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, 42 FR 26951, 3 CFR 1977 Comp., p. 117, amended by Executive Order No. 12148, *Federal Emergency Management*, 44 FR 43239, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 412.
- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1467 (1996).
- NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, 2000 Edition.
- State Regulations.

4.7.2 Federal Regulatory Consistency Overview

This SEA was prepared and reviewed for consistency with all applicable federal statutes and regulations.

National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(d) (1994)

NEPA directs that all federal agencies ensure that environmental considerations be given appropriate consideration in decision-making, along with economic and technical considerations, to the extent possible. AFI 32-7061, *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, implements the NEPA requirements. This SEA was prepared and will be reviewed in accordance with the provisions set forth in NEPA and AFI 32-7061. This SEA considered the environmental consequences of the proposed action, expansion plans, and the no-action alternative. The

document will be on file for review and comment by all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and interested persons.

Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 13101-13109

This act established a national policy to prevent or reduce pollution at the source, whenever feasible. The proposed action and the alternatives would not cause any increase in pollution loadings.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544 (1996)

The ESA of 1973 requires that any action authorized by a federal agency be unlikely to jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of that species habitat that is considered to be critical. Section 7 of the ESA requires that the responsible federal agency consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries, formerly NMFS) concerning endangered and threatened species under each agency's control. There are no federally threatened or endangered species on or near the proposed construction area and there would be no effect to fish and wildlife habitat from implementing the proposed or the alternatives.

National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 470(f) and (h-2) (1994)

The NHPA ensures preservation of our nation's historic and cultural resources. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that Keesler AFB consult with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies regarding the potential for the proposed action and the alternatives to affect cultural resources of historical or archaeological significance. Neither the proposed action nor the alternatives would affect cultural resources of historical or archaeological significance.

Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1377 (1994)

The CWA, as amended, regulates discharges to the waters of the United States. The proposed action would comply with the provisions of the CWA. No alterations to water bodies would occur as part of this proposed action or the alternatives and there would be no increase in stormwater discharges.

Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*

Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, directs agencies to take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands on federal property. Neither the proposed action nor the alternatives would affect any wetland areas.

Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7401-7671, as amended (1994)

The CAA, as amended, provides for the protection and enhancement of the nation's air resources. The alternative site locations are in an attainment area and implementing any of these actions would not affect ambient air quality.

Executive Order No. 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice*

In accordance with Executive Order 12898, Keesler AFB is required to identify and address, as appropriate, the potential for disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations. Environmental justice issues have been assessed for this proposed action and the alternatives, and minority or low-income populations would not be disproportionately affected by the proposed action.

Executive Order No. 13045, *Protection Of Children From Environmental Health Risks And Safety Risks*, 62 FR 19885 (1997)

Federal agencies are required to ensure that their policies, programs, and activities address disproportionate environmental risk and safety risk to children. Implementation of the proposed action would not result in a disproportionate environmental risk and safety risk to children. New hazardous materials would not be introduced as part of the proposed action and all activities proposed would not increase the potential risk for contaminant exposure to children.

Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. § 615 et seq. (1970)

OSHA provides for safe and healthful working conditions. The contractor and operations personnel would be responsible for compliance with applicable OSHA regulations, and neither the proposed action nor the alternatives would affect safety and health during construction or operation of the facility.

Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, amended by Executive Order No. 12148, *Federal Emergency Management*

Executive Orders Nos. 11988 and 12148 require federal service agencies to avoid activities that directly or indirectly result in development of floodplain areas. Neither the proposed action nor the alternatives are located within the 100-year floodplain.

Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1467 (1996)

The CZMA, as amended, provides for preservation, protection, development, and, where feasible, restoration or enhancement of the nation's coastal zone.

National Fire Protection Association Code 30

The NFPA 30 code applies to the storage, handling, and use of flammable and combustible liquids in portable storage tanks whose capacity exceed 660 gallons (2,500 liters).

4.7.3 State Regulatory Consistency Overview

As a part of the federal government's landholdings, Keesler AFB is exempt from most state and local zoning and planning regulations. However, it is USAF policy to work closely with state and local officials and to comply with state and local regulations to the maximum extent practicable while remaining consistent with mission and operational requirements. The proposed action and the alternatives would not conflict with any state or local land use or growth management regulations.

Mississippi Coastal Management Act, Stat. Ch. 380.20-380.27 (1997)

In 1997, the Mississippi Legislature adopted the Mississippi Coastal Management Act. This act authorized the development of a coastal management program to implement the federal government's CZMA. In 1998, the Mississippi Coastal Management Program (MCMP) was submitted to the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce and was approved. Wetland permits and mitigation measures must be approved by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources prior to the provision of a letter of coastal zone consistency.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Endangered and Threatened Species Act of 1977

Potentially occurring state-listed species have been identified for the project site and are addressed in this SEA.

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5

Environmental Permits and Contractor Requirements for the Preferred Alternative

Table 5-1	
Environmental Notices And Compliances Likely To Be Required	
Compliance and Permit Requirements	Agency
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (update to include temporary aboveground storage tanks [ASTs])	Keesler Air Force Base
Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (update to include temporary ASTs)	Keesler Air Force Base
Affirmative Procurement	Keesler Air Force Base
Recycling-Diversion Rates	Keesler Air Force Base

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The AAFES liaison associated with the preparation of this SEA is:

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Departments of the Army and Air Force
Army and Air Force Exchange Service
HQ AAFES
3911 South Walton Walker Blvd,
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The contractor responsible for preparing this SEA is:

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1950 Commonwealth Lane
Tallahassee, FL 32303

The following individuals contributed to the preparation of this EA:

Name	Role	Project Responsibility
Gene Stillman	Project Manager	Project Management; Quality Assurance; Alternatives Analysis; Identification of Affected Environment
Kris Lloyd	Assistant Project Manager	Project Management; Quality Assurance; Alternatives Analysis; Identification of Affected Environment
Gina Edwards	Senior Technical Editor	Document Control and Editing
Cindy Dick	Graphic Artist	Figures
Ken Starling	CADD Operator	Maps, Figures

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Keesler Air Force Base, Civil Engineering

- Don Kinman, Planning;
- George Daniel, Natural Resources;
- Jim Morrison, Environmental
- Steven Waidelich, Assistant Chief, Fire Prevention; and
- Ted James, Air Quality.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service

- Greg Smith, Project Manager/Engineer; and
- Joelle Lee, AAFES

State of Mississippi

- Ken Lefleur, General Permits, MDEQ;
- Elbert Hilliard, SHPO, MDAH;
- Charles Chisolm, Executive Director, MDEQ; and
- Cathy Malette, Office of Federal Grants, Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration.

Federal Government Agencies

- United States Department of the Army, USACE, Mobile District Office;
- Ray Aycock, Field Supervisor, USFWS, Jackson Field Office; and
- Keith Taniguchi, Chief, USFWS, Region 4, Habitat Conservation Division.

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A

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

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Finding of No Significant Impact Construction of Temporary Gas Station Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

AGENCY: Departments of the Army and Air Force, Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Operations Center.

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508, implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 4321, et seq.; and the Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*, as promulgated at 32 CFR Part 989, the AAFES conducted an assessment of the potential environmental consequences of the construction of a temporary gas station on Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) attached herein evaluated all potential impacts of the preferred alternative and the no-action alternative. The environmental consequences of the proposed action are summarized in the following sections.

PROPOSED ACTION: AAFES proposes to construct a temporary station for use by authorized patrons at Keesler AFB during demolition and construction of the permanent facility that was proposed under the Primary Environmental Assessment (PEA) dated January 2003. The contractor would be required to implement standard environmental protection measures that would include methods to minimize construction impacts on natural resources and control sediment and erosion.

EARTH RESOURCES: Soils would not be impacted because the temporary facility would be located on an existing impervious surface. No geological or topographical features would be affected.

AIR QUALITY: Implementation of the proposed action under Alternative 2 would generate exhaust/crankcase emissions from construction equipment. Underground storage tanks (USTs) are listed as emission points on the Keesler AFB Title V Permit; removal or addition of tanks will require a modification to the permit. Temporary aboveground storage tanks (AST) would be used while the old tanks are removed and the new tanks are installed at the newly constructed gas station discussed in the PEA. These tanks would be operated in accordance with requirements established by the existing Title V Permit and existing regulations, and therefore, would not result in additional impact. Following construction, use of the proposed project facility would result in a reduction in the number of commuter trips to and from off-base gas stations. The corresponding reduction in auto emissions would constitute a positive air quality impact on the community.

WATER RESOURCES: The preferred alternative would not increase the amount of impervious surface area on the base. Because the site is located within a developed area, the existing stormwater system would be sufficient to handle any potential increase in stormwater runoff. There would be no impacts to surface water, wetlands, or floodplains. Any potential increase in non-point source pollutants from additional vehicles using the facility would be minimized through adherence to the Keesler AFB Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

NOISE: The preferred alternative would result in temporarily increased noise levels during construction work hours. This increase in noise levels would be temporary and would only occur during daylight hours. Operational activities would result in a minimal noise increase due to increased traffic from deliveries to the facility, as well as customer vehicles entering and exiting the area.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES: All hazardous wastes would continue to be handled as currently handled. Any hazardous materials stored or used at the facility, or brought on site during construction activities, would comply with Keesler AFB hazardous management policies.

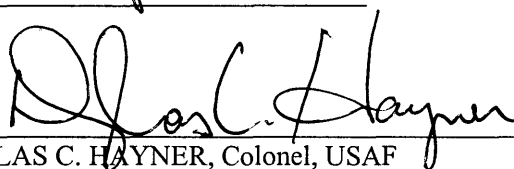
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Habitat that would be suitable for biological resources does not exist on the proposed site; therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on wildlife or plants as a result of implementing the preferred alternative.

INFRASTRUCTURE/UTILITIES: The existing infrastructure and utility systems have adequate capacity to supply services for the implementation of the proposed action at the preferred alternative site. The proposed action would require the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of energy resources during construction, and operation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The preferred site of the proposed action contains no identified historical or archaeological resources.

SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES: The preferred site of the proposed action would have a slight positive effect on Keesler AFB's economy by maintaining gasoline services for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) services during the construction of the permanent facility. There would be no effects to land-use designations or to off-base economic or social impacts as a result of the proposed action. There would be no effects to minority or low-income populations.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: Based upon my review of the facts and analyses contained in the attached EA, I conclude that the implementation of the proposed action at the preferred alternative site location will not have a significant environmental impact. Accordingly, the requirements of NEPA, CEQ regulations, and the EIAP are fulfilled and an environmental impact statement is not required. The Draft SEA and FONSI were made available for agency and public review during a 30-day period prior to initiation of the proposed action. The Draft SEA and FONSI were distributed to the appropriate government agencies, and public comments were solicited in a Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the *SunHerald* dated August 23, 2004. The signing of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) completes the USAF EIAP.

23 Sep 04
Date

DOUGLAS C. HAYNER, Colonel, USAF
Vice Commander
81st Training Wing

B

Affidavit, Proof of Publication

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A display ad(s) for Ecology and Environment was published correctly in *The Sun Herald* as follows:

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — No tickets matched all six Florida Lotto numbers, producing a \$6 million jackpot for Wednesday's drawing, lottery officials said Sunday.

A total of 47 tickets matched five numbers to win \$7,418.50; 3,167 tickets matched four numbers for \$89.50; and 71,054 tickets matched three numbers for \$5.50.

LOUISIANA LOTTERY

Pick 3 8-2-1

Pick 4 9-3-5-4

Louisiana: (800) 735-5825

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — No one hit the top prizes in three lottery games Saturday night.

Powerball's jackpot rolls over to an estimated \$21 million for Wednesday night's drawing. Louisiana Lotto's top prize goes to an estimated \$300,000.

There were three \$5,000 Powerball consolation tickets sold in Louisiana. They matched four of five numbers, plus the Powerball. There were 16 Lotto tickets matching five of six numbers — worth \$1,903 each.

LOCAL

Monday, August 23, 2004 A 3

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY, DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY GAS STATION AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Supplement to the Primary Environmental Assessment: Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco Johns Restaurant at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi

The United States Air Force proposes to construct a temporary gas station for use by authorized patrons at Keesler Air Force Base (the "base"). This action is being completed to provide gas services during the construction of the new gas station and shoppette facility. Construction of these facilities will be completed in a central consolidated location on the base and would increase the size, condition, and convenience of these facilities to authorized base personnel.

An Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared to determine the environmental impacts in the areas of air quality, earth resources, water resources, infrastructure and utilities, hazardous materials and wastes, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, land use, and environmental justice. This analysis is being accomplished pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the Act (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulation [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), Department of Defense Instruction 4715.9, Air Force implementing regulation for NEPA (Title 32 CFR 989 as amended) and other applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Based on the analysis documented in the Draft EA, the Air Force has prepared a proposed Finding of No Significant Impact.

The document is available for public examination at the Biloxi City Library, in the Government Documents Section, 139 Lameuse Street. Please provide written comments related to this document to Mr. George Daniel, 81 CES/CEV, 508 L Street, Keesler AFB, MS 39534. The public comment period will end on September 6, 2004. Comments must be received by September 6, 2004.

PRIVACY ADVISORY

Your comments on the Draft SEA are requested. Any submitted letters or other written comments may be published in the Final SEA. As required by law, comments will be addressed in the Final EA and made available to the public. Any personal information provided will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment portion of any public meetings, or hearings or to fulfill requests for copies of the Final SEA or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final SEA. However, only the names of the individuals making comments and specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final SEA.

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Agency Correspondence

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

Mr. James J. Chiniche
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
P O Box 2288
Mobile AL 36628-0001

Dear Sir

The United States Air Force is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) to construct a Temporary Gas Station Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. This EA is a supplement to the Primary Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled "Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco Johns Restaurant at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi" dated January 2003. The attachment to this letter describes the proposal and the alternatives being analyzed in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences. To facilitate cumulative impact analysis, we would also appreciate identification of major projects in the vicinity that may contribute to cumulative effects.

Any questions concerning the proposal should be directed to our consultant, Ecology & Environment, Inc (E & E). The point of contact at E & E is Mr. Gene Stillman, who can be reached at (850) 754-1400. Please forward your written response to Mr. George Daniel, 81 CES/CEVN, at the address indicated above. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James J. Chiniche", is located below the word "Sincerely".

JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, P. E., REM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachment
Draft EA



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

Mr. James J. Chiniche
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Ave, Suite 101
Biloxi MS 39530-1613

Dear Sir

The United States Air Force is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) to construct a Temporary Gas Station Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. This EA is a supplement to the Primary Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled "Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco Johns Restaurant at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi" dated January 2003. The attachment to this letter describes the proposal and the alternatives being analyzed in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences. To facilitate cumulative impact analysis, we would also appreciate identification of major projects in the vicinity that may contribute to cumulative effects.

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Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Chiniche", is positioned above the typed name.

JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, P. E., REM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachment
Draft EA



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

August 20, 2002

Mr. George Daniel
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler Air Force Base, MS 39534-2115

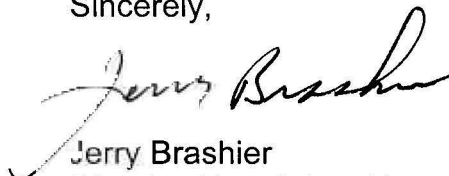
Re: Proposed Construction of a Temporary Gas Station; DMR-03073

Dear Mr. Daniel:

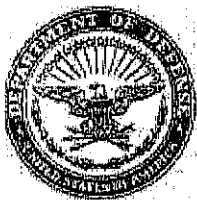
After reviewing the Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Temporary Gas Station at Keesler Air Force Base the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has determined that no wetlands will be affected. Further, the proposal has been evaluated and has been determined to be consistent with the Mississippi Coastal Program. The DMR has no objections to this project provided that all activities are conducted as outlined in the proposal. Please notify the DMR of any changes to the proposal or if additional information is required of the DMR. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Justin Godfrey with the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at (228) 374-5022 extension 5084.

Sincerely,


Jerry Brashier
Director, Regulatory Functions

JB/jdg



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

Mr. James J. Chiniche
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

Mr. Charles Chisolm, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 20305
Jackson MS 39289

Dear Mr. Chisolm

The United States Air Force is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) to construct a Temporary Gas Station Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. This EA is a supplement to the Primary Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled "Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco Johns Restaurant at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi" dated January 2003. The attachment to this letter describes the proposal and the alternatives being analyzed in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences. To facilitate cumulative impact analysis, we would also appreciate identification of major projects in the vicinity that may contribute to cumulative effects.

Any questions concerning the proposal should be directed to our consultant, Ecology & Environment, Inc (E & E). The point of contact at E & E is Mr. Gene Stillman, who can be reached at (850) 754-1400. Please forward your written response to Mr. George Daniel, 81 CES/CEVN, at the address indicated above. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Chiniche", is written over a horizontal line.

JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, P. E., REM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachment
Draft EA



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

Mr. James J. Chiniche
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

Mr. Ray Aycock, Field Supervisor
U S Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Pkwy, Ste A
Jackson MS 39213

Dear Mr. Aycock

The United States Air Force is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) to construct a Temporary Gas Station Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. This EA is a supplement to the Primary Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled "Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco Johns Restaurant at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi" dated January 2003. The attachment to this letter describes the proposal and the alternatives being analyzed in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences. To facilitate cumulative impact analysis, we would also appreciate identification of major projects in the vicinity that may contribute to cumulative effects.

Any questions concerning the proposal should be directed to our consultant, Ecology & Environment, Inc (E & E). The point of contact at E & E is Mr. Gene Stillman, who can be reached at (850) 754-1400. Please forward your written response to Mr. George Daniel, 81 CES/CEVN, at the address indicated above. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James J. Chiniche", is written over a circular stamp.

JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, P. E., REM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachment
Draft EA



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

February 10, 2004

Mr. James J. Chiniche
Department of the Air Force
81 CES/CEV
508 L. Street
Keesler AFB, Mississippi 39534-2113

Dear Mr. Chiniche

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the proposed plans for the construction of a temporary gas station facility at Keesler AFB, Harrison County, Mississippi. We understand that Ecology & Environment, Inc. will prepare a supplemental Environment Assessment regarding the construction of the gas station. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531et.).

Based on the information provided, the Service has determined that the proposed work would have no adverse effect on any federally listed species or Critical Habitats, or wetlands. However, if the proposed plan is modified or additional actions are identified, obligations under Section 7 of the ESA must be reconsidered.

If you need additional information, please contact this office, telephone: (601) 321-1136.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Gregg
Fish and Wildlife Biologist



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

September 20, 2004

Mr. George Daniel
Department of the Air Force
81 CES/CEVN
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2115

Dear Mr. Daniel:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Supplemental Environmental Assessment Draft (SEA Draft) dated July 2004, which was submitted by the Department of the Air Force. The proposal includes the construction of a temporary Gas Station Facility on Keesler Air Force Base, Harrison County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et.).

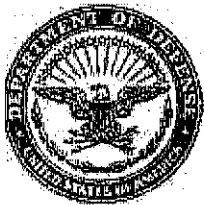
The proposal includes the construction of a temporary Gas Station Facility for use by authorized patrons of Keesler Air Force Base.

The Service concurs with the determination that the proposed activities, if implemented as described in the SEA Draft, will have no adverse effects on any federally listed species or Critical Habitats, or wetlands. However, if the proposed plan is modified or additional actions are identified, the SEA Draft should be reconsidered.

The Service welcomes the opportunity to work with the military in the development of projects and activities at Keesler Air Force Base. If you need additional information, please contact Paul Necaie of our coastal office, telephone: (228) 493-6631.

Sincerely,

Curtis B. James
Assistant Field Supervisor



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

Mr. James J. Chiniche
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

Mr. Elbert Hilliard, SHPO
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P O Box 571
Jackson MS 39205

Dear Mr. Hilliard

The United States Air Force is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) to construct a Temporary Gas Station Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. This EA is a supplement to the Primary Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled "Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco Johns Restaurant at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi" dated January 2003. The attachment to this letter describes the proposal and the alternatives being analyzed in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences. To facilitate cumulative impact analysis, we would also appreciate identification of major projects in the vicinity that may contribute to cumulative effects.

Any questions concerning the proposal should be directed to our consultant, Ecology & Environment, Inc (E & E). The point of contact at E & E is Mr. Gene Stillman, who can be reached at (850) 754-1400. Please forward your written response to Mr. George Daniel, 81 CES/CEVN, at the address indicated above. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James J. Chiniche", is positioned above the typed name.

JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, P. E., REM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachment
Draft EA



Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Historic Preservation Division

PO Box 571 • Jackson, MS 39205-0571 • 601 / 359-6940 • Fax 601 / 359-6955 • mdah.state.ms.us

February 12, 2004

Mr. George Daniel
Environmental Flight
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB, Mississippi 39534

Dear Mr. Daniel:

RE: Proposed construction of a temporary gas station facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Harrison County

We have reviewed your cultural resources assessment request that we received on February 9, 2004, for the above referenced project proposal in accordance with our responsibilities outlined in 36 CFR 800.4 and 800.5 regarding the identification of historic properties and assessment of any potential adverse effects. It is our determination that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected. Therefore, we have no reservations with the proposal.

In addition, we are not aware of any potential of this undertaking to affect Indian cultural or religious sites. However, if you require confirmation of this, the tribal entities will have to be contacted directly.

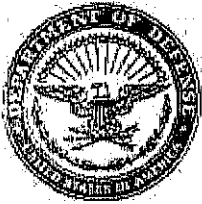
Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations. There remains a very remote possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during construction. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting us immediately so that we may take appropriate steps under 36 CFR 800, part 13, regarding our response within forty-eight hours. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Elbert R. Hilliard
State Historic Preservation Officer

Thomas H. Waggener
By: Thomas H. Waggener
Review and Compliance Officer

cc: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

Mr. James J. Chiniche
81 CES/CEV
508 L Street
Keesler AFB MS 39534-2115

Ms Mildred Thorp, Dept of Finance and Administration
Office of Federal Grants (Clearing House)
1301 Wool Folk Blvd, Suite E 501 NW Street
Jackson MS 39201

Dear Ms Thorp

The United States Air Force is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) to construct a Temporary Gas Station Facility at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. This EA is a supplement to the Primary Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled "Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction of a Gas Station, Car Care Center, Shoppette and Class Six, and Taco Johns Restaurant at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi" dated January 2003. The attachment to this letter describes the proposal and the alternatives being analyzed in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences. To facilitate cumulative impact analysis, we would also appreciate identification of major projects in the vicinity that may contribute to cumulative effects.

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Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James J. Chiniche", is positioned above the typed name.

JAMES J. CHINICHE, GS-13, P. E., REM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachment
Draft EA



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
MR. GEORGE DANIEL
508 L STREET
KEESLER AFB MS 39534 2115

DATE: FEB 24 2004

FROM: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: REVIEW COMMENTS - Activity:
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
TEMPORARY GAS STATION FACILITY AT KEESLER AIR FORCE
BASE, MISSISSIPPI.

State Application Identifier Number MS040209-004

Location: HARRISON

Contact: GEORGE DANIEL

The State Clearinghouse, in cooperation with state agencies interested or possibly affected, has completed the review process for the activity described above.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS COMPLIANCE:

- (✓) We are enclosing the comments received from the state agencies for your consideration and appropriate actions. The remaining agencies involved in the review did not have comments or recommendations to offer at this time. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.
- () Conditional clearance pending Archives and History's approval.
- () None of the state agencies involved in the review had comments or recommendations to offer at this time. This concludes the State Clearinghouse review, and we encourage appropriate action as soon as possible. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.
- () The review of this activity is being extended for a period not to exceed 60 days from the receipt of notification to allow adequate time for review.

COASTAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE (Coastal area activities only):

- () The activity has been reviewed and complies with the Mississippi Coastal Program. A consistency certification is to be issued by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
- () The activity has been reviewed and does not comply with the Mississippi Coastal Program.

cc: Funding Agency (As requested by applicant)

EO 12372
WEEKLY LOG
PGM=N150

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

DATE 02/02/0
02/09/0

MS APPLICANT NO.: MS040209-004
IMPACT AREA(S): HARRISON

APPLICANT:
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
MR. GEORGE DANIEL
508 L STREET
KEESLER AFB MS 39534-2115

CONTACT: GEORGE DANIEL
PHONE: (000) 000-0000

FEDERAL AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

FUNDING: FEDERAL
LOCAL
TOTAL

APPLICANT
OTHER

STATE
PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
TEMPORARY GAS STATION FACILITY AT KEESLER AIR FORCE
BASE, MISSISSIPPI.

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER

1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON, MS 39201 (601) 359-6762

- THIS IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ONLY -

STATE AGENCIES MUST REVIEW CERTAIN PROPOSALS PRIOR TO RECEIVING MISSISSIPPI INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS CLEARANCE. THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY REVIEWS ANY PROPOSALS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION, SUCH AS A HIGHWAY OR AN APARTMENT COMPLEX FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CULTURAL RESOURCES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION. MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL, REVIEWS APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT. THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES REVIEWS APPLICATIONS FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL PROGRAM.

IF APPLICATIONS ARE FOR PROJECTS OF LOCAL IMPACT, THEY SHOULD BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AT THE SAME TIME. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS IS THE USE OF STANDARD FORM 424. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION PREPARES AND DISTRIBUTES A WEEKLY LOG LISTING PERTINENT INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS FORM. OUR ADDRESS IS 1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON, MS 39201 AND OUR PHONE NUMBER IS (601)359-6762.



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
508 L ST.
KEESLER AFB MS 39534 2115

DATE: SEP 01 2004

FROM: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: REVIEW COMMENTS - Activity:
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TO CONSTRUCT A
TEMPORARY GAS STATION AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MS.
SUPPLEMENT TO PEA FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF GAS STATION,
CAR CARE CENTER, SHOPPETTE AND CLASS SIX, AND TACO JOHNS
RESTAURANT AT KEESLER AFB, DATED JANUARY 2003.

State Application Identifier Number MS040813-008

Location: HARRISON

Contact: GENE STILLMAN

The State Clearinghouse, in cooperation with state agencies interested or possibly affected, has completed the review process for the activity described above.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS COMPLIANCE:

- () We are enclosing the comments received from the state agencies for your consideration and appropriate actions. The remaining agencies involved in the review did not have comments or recommendations to offer at this time. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.
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